

September 17, 2012

A note on supersymmetric AdS_6 solutions of massive type IIA supergravity

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Abstract

Motivated by the $\text{AdS}_6/\text{CFT}_5$ correspondence, we study general supersymmetric solutions of massive type IIA supergravity, consisting of a warped product of six-dimensional anti-de Sitter space AdS_6 with a four-dimensional Riemannian manifold M_4 , and fluxes compatible with the $SO(5,2)$ symmetry. We find that the only local solution of this form is the warped $\text{AdS}_6 \times_w S^4$ solution, originally discovered by Brandhuber and Oz. We discuss the supersymmetric properties of this solution.

1 Introduction

The AdS/CFT correspondence [1] motivates the study of supersymmetric backgrounds of string theory, whose geometry possesses an $SO(p-1, 2)$ symmetry. There is an extensive literature on AdS_p solutions of (massive) type IIA, type IIB and eleven-dimensional supergravity for $p = 2$ to $p = 5$ (for comprehensive studies see [2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7]), while for $p = 7$ the only known supersymmetric background is the $AdS_7 \times S^4$ Freund-Rubin solution of eleven-dimensional supergravity. It is therefore natural to investigate the existence of supersymmetric AdS_6 solutions, which are expected to be dual to superconformal fixed points in five dimensions [8, 9]. Recent studies of five-dimensional superconformal field theories and the AdS_6/CFT_5 correspondence [10, 11, 12] further motivate the search of such solutions.

In reference [13] a (singular) warped $AdS_6 \times_w S^4$ solution was found in massive type IIA supergravity [14], arising as the near horizon limit of a localised D4-D8 brane configuration. Prior to [13], the existence of this solution was anticipated in [15], where the connection to Romans $F(4)$ gauged supergravity [16] in six dimensions and its boundary superconformal singleton theory was explored. The $AdS_6 \times_w S^4$ solution was also recovered in [17], where the $F(4)$ gauged supergravity was obtained upon Kaluza-Klein reduction of the bosonic sector of massive IIA supergravity on S^4 . The $SCFT_5$ dual to this $AdS_6 \times_w S^4$ gravitational background was further studied in [18]. A more detailed description of the AdS_6/CFT_5 correspondence has recently emerged with the work of [10, 12].

The superconformal group in five dimensions is $F(4)$ and its bosonic subgroup is $SO(5, 2) \times SU(2)_R$ [19]. As discussed in [13], the warped nature of the $AdS_6 \times_w S^4$ metric reduces the $SO(5)$ isometry group of S^4 to $SO(4) \simeq SU(2)_R \times SU(2)$ where $SU(2)_R$ is the R-symmetry group of $F(4)$, realised as a subgroup of this isometry.

In the present work we study the most general supersymmetric $AdS_6 \times_w M_4$ background of massive type IIA supergravity. We analyze the constraints imposed by supersymmetry on the geometry and the fluxes and conclude that the only background of this form is the known $AdS_6 \times_w S^4$. In the course of the analysis, we discuss how the $SU(2)_R$ subgroup of the $SO(5, 2) \times SO(4)$ isometry group of this solution is realised in terms of Killing vectors constructed as bilinears of the Killing spinors, as expected from general arguments [20, 21]. Furthermore, we construct the Killing spinors of the solution. The solution preserves 16 supersymmetries in accordance with the number of supercharges of the $F(4)$ superalgebra.

The rest of the note is organised as follows. In section 2 we summarise some elements of the massive type IIA supergravity theory, mainly to establish our notation and conventions. In section 3 we derive the reduced conditions for supersymmetry on M_4 . In section 4 we present the analysis of the supersymmetry conditions and in section 5 we reproduce the

$\text{AdS}_6 \times_w S^4$ solution and study its supersymmetric properties. The appendices include some technical material used in the main text.

2 Massive type IIA supergravity

In this section we briefly review some elements of massive type IIA supergravity that are necessary for our analysis, following the conventions of reference [5].

The bosonic sector of massive type IIA supergravity consists of the metric $g^{(10)}$, the dilaton ϕ , a massive 2-form field B' and a 3-form field C' . The field strengths of the form fields are defined as

$$H = dB', \quad dG = dC' + mB' \wedge B' \quad (1)$$

and the corresponding Bianchi identities are

$$dH = 0 \quad (2a)$$

$$dG = 2mB' \wedge H. \quad (2b)$$

The massless limit $m \rightarrow 0$ is retrieved after introducing the field redefinitions

$$mB' = mB + \frac{1}{2}dA \quad (3a)$$

$$mC' = mC - \frac{1}{4}A \wedge dA, \quad (3b)$$

where A , C and B become the RR 1-form, the RR 3-form and the NS 2-form potentials of type IIA supergravity.

The equations of motion of the theory are

$$\begin{aligned} 0 = & R_{MN} - \frac{1}{2}\nabla_M\phi\nabla_N\phi - \frac{1}{12}e^{\phi/2}G_{MPQR}G_N{}^{PQR} + \frac{1}{128}e^{\phi/2}g_{MN}^{(10)}G^2 - \frac{1}{4}e^{-\phi}H_{MPQ}H_N{}^{PQ} \\ & + \frac{1}{48}e^{-\phi}g_{MN}^{(10)}H^2 - 2m^2e^{3\phi/2}B'_{MP}B'_N{}^P + \frac{m^2}{8}e^{3\phi/2}g_{MN}^{(10)}(B')^2 - \frac{m^2}{4}e^{5\phi/2}g_{MN}^{(10)} \end{aligned} \quad (4a)$$

$$0 = \nabla^2\phi - \frac{1}{96}e^{\phi/2}G^2 + \frac{1}{12}e^{-\phi}H^2 - \frac{3m^2}{2}e^{3\phi/2}(B')^2 - 5m^2e^{5\phi/2} \quad (4b)$$

$$0 = d(e^{-\phi} * H) - \frac{1}{2}G \wedge G + 2me^{\phi/2}B' \wedge *G + 4m^2e^{3\phi/2} * B' \quad (4c)$$

$$0 = d(e^{\phi/2} * G) - H \wedge G. \quad (4d)$$

For a bosonic background of a supergravity theory to be supersymmetric, the variation of the fermionic fields under a supersymmetry transformation must vanish i.e. there exists a Killing spinor ϵ such that $\delta_\epsilon(\text{fermionic field}) = 0$. The fermionic fields of massive type IIA supergravity are the gravitino Ψ_M and the dilatino λ . The variation of the gravitino under a

supersymmetry transformation is $\delta\Psi_M = \tilde{\nabla}_M \epsilon$, where $\tilde{\nabla}_M$ is the supercovariant derivative

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\nabla}_M = & \nabla_M - \frac{me^{5\phi/4}}{16}\Gamma_M - \frac{me^{3\phi/4}}{32}B'_{NP}(\Gamma_M{}^{NP} - 14\delta_M{}^N\Gamma^P)\Gamma_{11} \\ & + \frac{e^{-\phi/2}}{96}H_{NPQ}(\Gamma_M{}^{NPQ} - 9\delta_M{}^N\Gamma^{PQ})\Gamma_{11} + \frac{e^{\phi/4}}{256}G_{NPQR}(\Gamma_M{}^{NPQR} - \frac{20}{3}\delta_M{}^N\Gamma^{PQR}) , \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

while the dilatino variation reads

$$\begin{aligned} \delta\lambda = & \left[-\frac{1}{2}\partial_M\phi\Gamma^M - \frac{5me^{5\phi/4}}{4} + \frac{3me^{3\phi/4}}{8}B'_{MN}\Gamma^{MN}\Gamma_{11} \right. \\ & \left. + \frac{e^{-\phi/2}}{24}H_{MNP}\Gamma^{MNP}\Gamma_{11} - \frac{e^{\phi/4}}{192}G_{MNPQ}\Gamma^{MNPQ} \right] \epsilon . \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

The supersymmetry parameter ϵ is a Majorana spinor of $\text{Spin}(9, 1)$.

As shown in [5], upon imposing the Bianchi identities and the equations of motion of the fluxes, supersymmetry implies that the dilaton and Einstein equations are satisfied, provided $E_{0M} = 0$ for $M \neq 0$, where $E_{MN} = 0$ are the Einstein equations.

3 $\text{AdS}_6 \times_w M_4$ backgrounds

We consider the most general supersymmetric bosonic background of massive type IIA supergravity that is invariant under the action of $SO(5, 2)$. Accordingly, the ten-dimensional metric (in the Einstein frame) is assumed to be of the form of a warped sum of a metric g_{AdS_6} on AdS_6 and an arbitrary four-dimensional Riemannian metric g as

$$g^{(10)} = e^{2\Delta} (g_{\text{AdS}_6} + g) . \quad (7)$$

The warp factor Δ is a function on M_4 . The signature of the ten-dimensional metric is $(-, +, \dots, +)$. In conformance with the $SO(5, 2)$ symmetry, the fluxes have non-vanishing components only on M_4 . Furthermore, the equation of motion for G sets

$$G = \mu e^{-\phi/2-2\Delta} \text{vol}_4 , \quad (8)$$

where μ is a constant and vol_4 the Riemannian volume form. It will prove convenient to introduce an abbreviation for the dual of H in four dimensions: $H^* \equiv *_4 H$. Then, the equation of motion for H becomes

$$d(e^{-\phi+4\Delta}H^*) + 2\mu m B' + 4m^2 e^{3\phi/2+6\Delta} *_4 B' = 0 . \quad (9)$$

In order to study the conditions imposed by supersymmetry on the fluxes and the

geometry of M_4 , we decompose the supersymmetry parameter ϵ in terms of $\text{Spin}(5, 1)$ and $\text{Spin}(4)$ spinors. The decomposition ansatz for the $\text{Spin}(9, 1)$ Majorana spinor ϵ is

$$\epsilon = \sum_{i=1}^2 \psi_i^+ \otimes e^{\Delta/2} \eta_i + \sum_{i=1}^2 \psi_i^- \otimes e^{\Delta/2} \xi_i . \quad (10)$$

Here ψ_i^+ , ψ_i^- are symplectic-Majorana Weyl spinors of $\text{Spin}(5, 1)$, (a plus or minus index indicates the chirality of the spinor) whereas η_i and ξ_i are symplectic-Majorana Dirac spinors of $\text{Spin}(4)$. The summation over the symplectic-Majorana indices i ensures that ϵ satisfies a Majorana condition. The factor $e^{\Delta/2}$ is included for later convenience. The ψ_i^+ and ψ_i^- spinors on AdS_6 satisfy the Killing spinor equations ¹

$$\nabla_\mu \psi_i^\pm = \Lambda \gamma_\mu \psi_i^\mp . \quad (11)$$

The Ricci curvature of the AdS_6 space thus defined is $\text{Ric} = -5 \cdot (2\Lambda)^2 g_{\text{AdS}_6}$. The spinor decomposition (10) implies that for $\Lambda \neq 0$ both η_i and ξ_i spinors have to be nonzero. Furthermore, the chiral spinors η_i^+ and η_i^- form a basis for the representations of positive and negative chirality of $\text{Spin}(4)$ and thus ξ_i can be expanded in terms of η_i as

$$\begin{pmatrix} \xi_1^+ \\ \xi_2^+ \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & a_2 \\ -a_2^* & a_1^* \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \eta_1^+ \\ \eta_2^+ \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} \xi_1^- \\ \xi_2^- \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} b_1 & b_2 \\ -b_2^* & b_1^* \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \eta_1^- \\ \eta_2^- \end{pmatrix} \quad (12)$$

where a_1, a_2, b_1, b_2 are complex functions. A review of spinors in 4 and 5 + 1 dimensions is included in appendix A.

Decomposing the Clifford algebra $\text{Cliff}(9, 1)$ as $\text{Cliff}(5, 1) \otimes \text{Cliff}(4, 0)$ (c.f. appendix A) and substituting the ansätze in the gravitino and dilatino supersymmetry variations, yields a set of conditions on the $\text{Spin}(4)$ spinors. We obtain four algebraic conditions

$$[(\partial_m \phi - 12 \partial_m \Delta + 2e^{\Phi_3} H_m^*) \gamma^m + 4me^{\Phi_1} - 2\mu e^{\Phi_4} \gamma_5] \eta_i - 24\Lambda \gamma_5 \xi_i = 0 \quad (13a)$$

$$[(\partial_m \phi - 12 \partial_m \Delta - 2e^{\Phi_3} H_m^*) \gamma^m + 4me^{\Phi_1} - 2\mu e^{\Phi_4} \gamma_5] \xi_i - 24\Lambda \gamma_5 \eta_i = 0 \quad (13b)$$

$$[(4\partial_m \phi + 2e^{\Phi_3} H_m^*) \gamma^m + 10me^{\Phi_1} - 3me^{\Phi_2} B'_{mn} \gamma^{mn} \gamma_5 + \mu e^{\Phi_4} \gamma_5] \eta_i = 0 \quad (13c)$$

$$[(4\partial_m \phi - 2e^{\Phi_3} H_m^*) \gamma^m + 10me^{\Phi_1} + 3me^{\Phi_2} B'_{mn} \gamma^{mn} \gamma_5 + \mu e^{\Phi_4} \gamma_5] \xi_i = 0 \quad (13d)$$

from the dilatino variation and the AdS_6 components of the gravitino variation and two

¹ In principle one can consider the more general Killing spinor equations $\nabla_\mu \psi_i^\pm = \Lambda \gamma_\mu \sum_j W_{ij} \psi_j^\mp$ but by a re-definition of ψ_i^\pm , W can be set equal to the identity.

differential conditions

$$\nabla_m \eta_i + \frac{me^{\Phi_2}}{2} B'_{mn} \gamma^n \gamma_5 \eta_i - \frac{\mu e^{\Phi_4}}{4} \gamma_m \gamma_5 \eta_i - \frac{e^{\Phi_3}}{4} H_n^* \gamma^n \gamma_m \eta_i + \frac{e^{\Phi_3}}{8} H_m^* \eta_i - \Lambda \gamma_m \gamma_5 \xi_i = 0 \quad (14a)$$

$$\nabla_m \xi_i - \frac{me^{\Phi_2}}{2} B'_{mn} \gamma^n \gamma_5 \xi_i - \frac{\mu e^{\Phi_4}}{4} \gamma_m \gamma_5 \xi_i + \frac{e^{\Phi_3}}{4} H_n^* \gamma^n \gamma_m \xi_i - \frac{e^{\Phi_3}}{8} H_m^* \xi_i - \Lambda \gamma_m \gamma_5 \eta_i = 0 \quad (14b)$$

from the M_4 components of the gravitino variation. In the above equations we have introduced the exponents

$$\Phi_1 \equiv \frac{5}{4}\phi + \Delta, \quad \Phi_2 \equiv \frac{3}{4}\phi - \Delta, \quad \Phi_3 \equiv -\frac{1}{2}\phi - 2\Delta, \quad \Phi_4 \equiv -\frac{1}{4}\phi - 5\Delta.$$

4 Analysis of the supersymmetry conditions

The strategy for analysing equations (13) and (14) is to translate them into algebraic and differential equations obeyed by bilinears of η_i and ξ_i . We begin by introducing a set of (real) spinor bilinears which appear in our analysis. The symmetry and reality properties of bilinears of $\text{Spin}(4)$ spinors are presented in appendix B.

scalars	1-forms	2-forms
$\hat{s}_+ := \eta_i^\dagger \eta_i = \ \eta_i\ ^2$	$V_+^A := \frac{1}{4} \text{tr} \eta^\dagger \gamma_5 \gamma_{(1)} i\sigma^A \eta$	$J_+^A := \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} \eta^\dagger \gamma_{(2)} i\sigma^A \eta$
$\hat{s}_- := \xi_i^\dagger \xi_i = \ \xi_i\ ^2$	$V_+^4 := \frac{1}{4} \text{tr} \eta^\dagger \gamma_{(1)} \eta$	$J_-^A := \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} \xi^\dagger \gamma_{(2)} i\sigma^A \xi$
$s_+ := \eta_i^\dagger \gamma_5 \eta_i$	$V_-^4 := \frac{1}{4} \text{tr} \xi^\dagger \gamma_{(1)} \xi$	$K' := \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} \eta^\dagger \gamma_{(1)} \xi$
$s_- := \xi_i^\dagger \gamma_5 \xi_i$		

In the above expressions we use the notation

$$\gamma_{(n)} = \frac{1}{n!} \gamma_{m_1 m_2 \dots m_n} dy^{m_1} \wedge dy^{m_2} \wedge \dots \wedge dy^{m_n} \quad (15)$$

where y^m are coordinates on M_4 . The index $A \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ and σ^A are the Pauli matrices acting on the symplectic-Majorana indices of the spinors; the trace tr is also over the symplectic-Majorana indices, e.g. $V_+^3 = \frac{i}{4}(\eta_1^\dagger \gamma_5 \gamma_{(1)} \eta_1 - \eta_2^\dagger \gamma_5 \gamma_{(1)} \eta_2)$. A plus subscript is used to denote bilinears of η_i and a minus subscript bilinears of ξ_i .²

²Given a symplectic-Majorana Dirac spinor of $\text{Spin}(4)$, $\hat{s}, s, V^A, V^4, J^A$ are all the bilinears one can construct.

Application of Fierz identities yields the following algebraic relations for the bilinears of a Dirac symplectic-Majorana spinor e.g. η_i

$$g^{mn}V_m^a V_n^b = \frac{1}{4}(\hat{s}^2 - s^2)\delta^{ab} \quad (16a)$$

$$\frac{1}{4}(\hat{s}^2 - s^2)J^A = \hat{s}\frac{1}{2}\epsilon^{ABC}V^B \wedge V^C + sV^A \wedge V^4, \quad (16b)$$

where $a, b \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$. Repeated indices A, B, C, \dots here and henceforth are summed over. The Levi-Civita symbol ϵ^{ABC} is normalised as $\epsilon^{123} = 1$. Equation (16a) implies that V^a can be used to define an orthonormal frame on M_4 i.e. η_i defines an identity structure. This is expected since the chiral components of η_i span the chiral representations of $\text{Spin}(4)$ or equivalently the isotropy group of η_i in $\text{Spin}(4)$ is the identity \mathbb{I} .

We proceed by stating a key set of relations for the scalar bilinears, deduced from the supersymmetry conditions. From (13c) and (13d) we derive

$$10m e^{\Phi_1} s_{\pm} + \mu e^{\Phi_4} \hat{s}_{\pm} = 0. \quad (17)$$

The above equations imply that $\mu = 0$ if and only if $s_{\pm} = 0$. In the following subsections the two cases $\mu \neq 0$ and $\mu = 0$ will be considered separately. A judicious use of (13) and (14) yields the following differential equations for the scalars

$$\mp d\hat{s}_{\pm} = \frac{e^{\Phi_3} \hat{s}_{\pm}}{4} H^* + 2\Lambda K \quad (18a)$$

$$e^{\phi/8-3\Delta/2} d(e^{-\phi/8+3\Delta/2} \hat{s}_{\pm}) = m e^{\Phi_1} V_{\pm}^4 \pm \Lambda K \quad (18b)$$

and

$$e^{-3\phi/8-7\Delta/2} d(e^{3\phi/8+7\Delta/2} s_{\pm}) = \frac{\mu e^{\Phi_4}}{2} V_{\pm}^4 + 5\Lambda K'. \quad (19)$$

The results presented in the following subsections can be derived in multiple ways, using various combinations of algebraic or/and differential conditions on spinor bilinears.

4.1 Vanishing 4-form flux

In this subsection we consider the case in which the 4-form flux G is zero i.e. $\mu = 0$. We deduce that there are no supersymmetric AdS_6 solutions in this case. As mentioned earlier, if $\mu = 0$ also $s_{\pm} = 0$ and $K' = 0$, the latter following immediately from (19). Using this information, the algebraic conditions (13) give additional constraints on scalar bilinears:

$$\text{Re}(\eta_1^\dagger \xi_1) = 0, \quad \eta_1^\dagger \gamma_5 \xi_2 = 0, \quad \text{Im}(\eta_1^\dagger \gamma_5 \xi_1) = 0. \quad (20)$$

These constraints restrict the coefficients of the expansion of ξ_i in terms of η_i (12) in the following way

$$\xi_i = q \gamma_5 \eta_i + \sum_j q_A i \sigma_{ij}^A \eta_j \quad (21)$$

where q, q_A are real functions.

In an attempt to determine the geometry of M_4 we examine the differential conditions obeyed by the 1-form bilinears. We find that $\nabla_{(m} K_{n)}^A = 0$ and so we conclude that the dual vectors of K^A are Killing vectors. Furthermore, we derive the differential equations

$$e^{2\Phi_4} d(e^{-2\Phi_4} K^A) = 8\Lambda (J_+^A + J_-^A) \quad (22a)$$

$$e^{2\Phi_4} d(e^{-2\Phi_4} K) = \text{Re}(\eta_1^\dagger \gamma_5 \xi_1) m e^{\Phi_2} *_4 B' \quad (22b)$$

$$dK = 0 \quad (22c)$$

and $\mathcal{L}_{K_\#^A} \phi = \mathcal{L}_{K_\#^A} \Delta = 0$ where \mathcal{L} denotes the Lie derivative and $\#$ the dual vector $g^{-1}(K^A, \cdot)$. A natural question that arises is to determine the algebra of these Killing vectors. The Killing property of the vectors and the fact that their Lie derivative leaves invariant the dilaton ϕ and the warp factor Δ can be exploited and compute, using (22a) and Fierz identities, the commutator of the vectors. We derive

$$[K_\#^A, K_\#^B] = -2\Lambda (\hat{s}_+ + \hat{s}_-) \epsilon^{ABC} K_\#^C \quad (23)$$

The above equation leads to the conclusion that $(\hat{s}_+ + \hat{s}_-)$ is constant. A combination of this fact with (18) yields ³ $\hat{s}_+ = \hat{s}_-$, $d\hat{s}_\pm = 0$ and

$$e^{\Phi_3} H^* = -8\Lambda K \quad (24a)$$

$$m e^{\Phi_1} (V_+^4 - V_-^4) = -2\Lambda K \quad (24b)$$

$$-\frac{1}{4} d\phi + 3d\Delta = m e^{\Phi_1} (V_+^4 + V_-^4) \quad (24c)$$

where since \hat{s}_\pm are constant and equal we have set, without loss of generality, $\hat{s}_\pm = 1$. In order to further investigate these relations, we expand K and V_-^4 in terms of the orthogonal 1-forms V_+^a , using the expansion (21) of ξ_i in terms of η_i . We derive

$$\frac{1}{2} K = q_A V_+^A - q V_+^4 \quad (25a)$$

$$V_-^4 = 2q(q_A V_+^A - q V_+^4) + (q^2 + q_A q_A) V_+^4. \quad (25b)$$

³ We also require $H^* \neq 0$; if $H^* = 0$ then from the equation of motion for H it follows that also B' is zero and in that case a simple analysis of the supersymmetry conditions leads to $\Lambda = 0$.

Taking into account that $\hat{s}_- = (q^2 + q_A q_A) \hat{s}_+$

$$V_-^4 = qK + V_+^4 . \quad (26)$$

Comparison with (24b) then yields $mq = 2\Lambda e^{-\Phi_1}$. From the expansion (21), $q = \text{Re}(\eta_1^\dagger \gamma_5 \xi_1)$ and for this scalar bilinear the supersymmetry conditions furnish

$$e^{\phi/4-3\Delta} d(e^{-\phi/4+3\Delta} q) = 4\Lambda(V_+^4 + V_-^4) . \quad (27)$$

Substituting the value $mq = \Lambda e^{-\Phi_1}$ derived above it follows that

$$-\frac{3}{2}d\phi + 2d\Delta = 2me^{\Phi_1}(V_+^4 + V_-^4) . \quad (28)$$

Combining this equation with (24c) yields $d\phi = -4d\Delta$ and hence $\phi = -4\Delta + c$ where c is a constant. For this value of the dilaton, $e^{-c/2}H^* = -8\Lambda K$ and so (22b) and the equation of motion (9) become respectively

$$d(e^{8\Delta}H^*) = -16e^{8\Delta}\Lambda^2 *_4 B' \quad (29a)$$

$$d(e^{8\Delta}H^*) = -4e^{3c/2}m^2 *_4 B' \quad (29b)$$

We thus conclude that either Δ is constant or $B' = 0$. In the former case equations (22b) and (22c) lead to

$$2\Lambda e^{-c/2} *_4 B' = 0 . \quad (30)$$

Hence $B' = 0$ in both cases. Since $H = dB'$, we also have $H^* = K = 0$. From the expansion of K (25a) in an orthogonal basis, we see that $q = q_A = 0$ and hence $\xi_i = 0$, which is inconsistent with $\Lambda \neq 0$.

4.2 Non-vanishing 4-form flux

We start by showing that $s_- = s_+$. One way to derive this is as follows: from the algebraic conditions (13c) and (13d) one obtains $H_m^* K'^m = 0$ while (13a) and (13b) yield $e^{\Phi_3} H_m^* K'^m = 6\Lambda(s_- - s_+)$. Hence $s_- = s_+$ ⁴. Inspection of equations (17), (18) and (19) then gives

$$\hat{s}_- = \hat{s}_+ \equiv \hat{s}, \quad V_+^4 = V_-^4, \quad K = H^* = 0 . \quad (31)$$

⁴ Recall that $\mu \neq 0$ implies $s_\pm \neq 0$.

For $H^* = 0$, the supersymmetry conditions (13c) and (13d) yield the equations

$$\pm d\phi \wedge V_{\pm}^4 = \frac{3me^{\Phi_2}}{2} (\hat{s}_{\pm} *_4 B' - s_{\pm} B') . \quad (32)$$

Taking into account (31) and $s_- = s_+ \equiv s$ we arrive at

$$B'(\hat{s}^2 - s^2) = 0. \quad (33)$$

Consequently, either $B' = 0$ or $\hat{s} = \pm s$. The latter case is equivalent to $\gamma_5 \eta_i = \pm \eta_i$ and $\gamma_5 \xi_i = \pm \xi_i$ (chiral spinors) and in this case, a straightforward combination of the supersymmetry conditions (13) and (14) result in $\Lambda = 0$. Therefore, we proceed with the first case.

For $B' = 0$ and $H^* = 0$, from equations (13a) or (13b) and the symmetry properties of the 1-form and scalar bilinears, it follows that $\eta_1^\dagger \gamma_5 \xi_2 = 0 = \text{Im}(\eta_1^\dagger \gamma_5 \xi_1)$. Then from equations (13c) and (13d) we derive $\eta_1^\dagger \xi_2 = 0 = \text{Im}(\eta_1^\dagger \xi_1)$. These constraints on the scalar bilinears, together with $s_- = s_+$ and $\hat{s}_- = \hat{s}_+$, restrict the coefficients of the expansion of ξ_i in terms of η_i (12) as

$$a_2 = b_2 = 0, \quad a_1 = \pm 1, \quad b_1 = \pm 1 . \quad (34)$$

Equivalently $\xi_i = \pm \eta_i$ or $\xi_i = \pm \gamma_5 \eta_i$. Assuming $\eta_i = \pm \gamma_5 \xi_i$, the supersymmetry conditions give $\Lambda = 0$. Then the only possibility left is $\xi_i = \pm \eta_i$ ⁵. Different signs produce the same set of conditions with a different sign for Λ and so, without loss of generality, one can choose either.

5 The $\text{AdS}_6 \times_{\text{w}} S^4$ solution

In this section we study the remaining case which - without loss of generality - is $\eta_i = \xi_i$ ⁶. It is convenient to write down the corresponding simplified set of supersymmetry conditions. The differential conditions become

$$\nabla_m \eta_i = \left[\frac{\mu e^{\Phi_4}}{4} + \Lambda \right] \gamma_m \gamma_5 \eta_i , \quad (35)$$

⁵ If an alternative decomposition of the $\text{Cliff}(9, 1)$ generators is chosen (c.f. appendix A), then compatible with $\Lambda \neq 0$ is the choice $\xi_i = \pm \gamma_5 \eta_i$.

⁶ Henceforth we omit the \pm subscripts which are used to distinguish between bilinears of η_i and bilinears of ξ_i .

while a set of reduced algebraic conditions is

$$0 = \partial_m \Delta \gamma^m \eta_i - \frac{m e^{\Phi_1}}{8} \eta_i + \frac{3 \mu e^{\Phi_4}}{16} \gamma_5 \eta_i + 2 \Lambda \gamma_5 \eta_i \quad (36a)$$

$$0 = \partial_m \phi \gamma^m \eta_i + \frac{5 m e^{\Phi_1}}{2} \eta_i + \frac{\mu e^{\Phi_4}}{4} \gamma_5 \eta_i . \quad (36b)$$

From (35) we find

$$d\hat{s} = 0, \quad ds = -(\mu e^{\Phi_4} + 4\Lambda) V^4 \quad (37)$$

and thus we can set $\hat{s} = 1$. Since $\hat{s} = \|\eta_i^+\|^2 + \|\eta_i^-\|^2$ we introduce the parametrization

$$\|\eta_i^+\|^2 = \cos^2(\theta/2), \quad \|\eta_i^-\|^2 = \sin^2(\theta/2), \quad \theta \in (0, \pi/2) . \quad (38)$$

It follows that $s = \|\eta_i^+\|^2 - \|\eta_i^-\|^2 = \cos \theta$. From the algebraic conditions (36a) and (36b) we then obtain

$$-2m e^{\Phi_1} \cos \theta + 3\mu e^{\Phi_4} + 32\Lambda = 0 \quad (39a)$$

$$10m e^{\Phi_1} \cos \theta + \mu e^{\Phi_4} = 0 . \quad (39b)$$

These relations lead to $\mu e^{\Phi_4} = -10\Lambda$ and $m e^{\Phi_1} \cos \theta = \Lambda$. Therefore

$$\Delta = -\frac{\phi}{20} + c \quad (40)$$

where c is a constant. Since $\Phi_1 = 5\phi/4 + \Delta = 6\phi/5$ we deduce

$$e^\phi = \left(\frac{e^c m}{\Lambda} \cos \theta \right)^{-5/6} . \quad (41)$$

With the above values, the conditions (36a) and (36b) become identical. In addition we derive $\mathcal{L}_{V_\#^A} \phi = 0$. The differential condition simplifies further and becomes

$$\nabla_m \eta_i = -\frac{3\Lambda}{2} \gamma_m \gamma_5 \eta_i . \quad (42)$$

This implies that M_4 is an Einstein manifold with Ricci tensor $\text{Ric} = 3 \cdot (3\Lambda)^2 g$. We recognise that (42) is the standard Killing spinor equation admitting an S^4 as solution (c.f. [22]). Below we show that indeed the local Einstein metric on the round S^4 is the *unique* solution to this equation. For the 1-form bilinears, equation (42) yields

$$\nabla_m V_n^A = \frac{3\Lambda}{2} J_{mn}^A, \quad \nabla_m V_n^4 = -\frac{3\Lambda}{2} g_{mn} \cos \theta . \quad (43)$$

In particular, the vector-duals of V^A are Killing vectors whereas the vector-dual of V^4 is a conformal Killing vector. Taking into account the expressions of J^A (16b) in terms of V^a and the differential equation $d \cos \theta = 6\Lambda V^4$ obtained earlier, we derive

$$dV^A = \frac{12\Lambda}{\sin^2 \theta} \frac{1}{2} \epsilon^{ABC} V^B \wedge V^C - \frac{1}{\sin^2 \theta} V^A \wedge d(\sin^2 \theta) \quad (44)$$

Setting

$$\hat{\sigma}^A \equiv -\frac{12\Lambda}{\sin^2 \theta} V^A, \quad (45)$$

the above equation becomes

$$d\hat{\sigma}^A = -\frac{1}{2} \epsilon^{ABC} \hat{\sigma}^B \wedge \hat{\sigma}^C. \quad (46)$$

We can thus identify $\hat{\sigma}^A$ as the left-invariant forms on S^3

$$\hat{\sigma}_1 + i\hat{\sigma}_2 = e^{-i\psi} (d\vartheta + i \sin \vartheta d\phi), \quad \hat{\sigma}_3 = d\psi + \cos \vartheta d\phi. \quad (47)$$

The dual Killing vectors $V_{\#}^A$ which obey the $\mathfrak{su}(2)$ algebra⁷

$$[V_{\#}^A, V_{\#}^B] = -3\Lambda \epsilon^{ABC} V_{\#}^C \quad (48)$$

are identified as the generators of $SU(2)_{\text{R}}$. In particular, the Killing spinor η_i transforms under $\mathfrak{su}(2)_{\text{R}}$ as

$$\mathcal{L}_{V_{\#}^A} \eta_i = \frac{3\Lambda}{2} \sum_j i\sigma_{ij}^A \eta_j, \quad (49)$$

where $\mathcal{L}_{V_{\#}^A}$ is the spinorial Lie derivative

$$\mathcal{L}_{V_{\#}^A} = V_{\#}^{Am} \nabla_m + \frac{1}{4} \nabla^{[m} V_{\#}^{An]} \gamma_{mn}. \quad (50)$$

The metric on M_4 constructed out of the orthonormal frame

$$e^4 = \frac{1}{3\Lambda} d\theta, \quad e^A = \frac{1}{6\Lambda} \sin \theta \hat{\sigma}^A \quad (51)$$

defined by V^a takes the form

$$ds_4^2 = \frac{1}{(3\Lambda)^2} \left[d\theta^2 + \frac{1}{4} \sin^2 \theta \sum_A (\hat{\sigma}^A)^2 \right] \equiv \frac{1}{(3\Lambda)^2} d\Omega_4^2, \quad (52)$$

⁷More accurately it is $-\frac{1}{3\Lambda} V_{\#}^A$ that obey the canonical $\mathfrak{su}(2)$ commutation relations and generate the right action of $SU(2)$.

where $\frac{1}{4} \sum_A (\hat{\sigma}^A)^2$ is the round metric on S^3 . The complete 10-dimensional solution reads

$$e^\phi = \left(\frac{e^c m}{\Lambda} \cos \theta \right)^{-5/6} \quad (53a)$$

$$G = -\frac{5}{12} \frac{e^{3c}}{(3\Lambda)^3} e^{-2\phi/5} \sin^3 \theta d\theta \wedge \text{vol}_{S^3} \quad (53b)$$

$$ds_{10}^2 = e^{-\phi/10} \frac{e^{2c}}{(3\Lambda)^2} \left\{ \frac{9}{4} ds_{\text{AdS}_6}^2 + d\Omega_4^2 \right\} , \quad (53c)$$

where vol_{S^3} is the volume element of the unit 3-sphere and $ds_{\text{AdS}_6}^2$ is the line element of unit AdS_6 . The $\text{AdS}_6 \times_w S^4$ solution as presented here has the same form as in [17] upon

$$\theta \rightarrow \pi/2 - \theta, \quad \Lambda = e^c m, \quad m \rightarrow m/2 \quad (54)$$

and as in [13] upon transforming the metric to the string frame $g_{\text{string}} = e^{\phi/2} g_{\text{Einstein}}$ and

$$\theta \rightarrow \pi/2 - \alpha, \quad m \rightarrow m/2, \quad \frac{e^c}{3\Lambda} \equiv Q_4^{3/10} C^{-1/5} , \quad (55)$$

where we have set the string length $l_s = 1$.

As discussed in [13], this solution has a boundary at $\theta = \pi/2$, corresponding to the equator of S^4 . Hence M_4 is a hemisphere, the boundary equator of which was identified in [13] with an orientifold plane. We note that at the (north) pole, corresponding to $\theta = 0$, one chiral component of the spinor η_i vanishes, while on the equator, corresponding to $\theta = \pi/2$, the chiral components of η_i have equal norms.

In the frame (51) and upon substituting the value of the dilaton, the algebraic condition (36b) becomes

$$\frac{1}{2}(1 + \sin \theta \gamma_4 - \cos \theta \gamma_5) \eta_i = 0 . \quad (56)$$

The operator acting on η_i has the properties of a projection operator, reducing the independent components of η_i by half. In particular, in the representation

$$\gamma_4 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \mathbb{I}_2 \\ \mathbb{I}_2 & 0 \end{pmatrix} , \quad \gamma_A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i\sigma^A \\ i\sigma^A & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (57)$$

of the generators of $\text{Cliff}(4, 0)$, the condition (56) becomes

$$\eta_i^- \cos(\theta/2) = -\eta_i^+ \sin(\theta/2) . \quad (58)$$

Taking into account (58), and in the frame (51), one can solve the Killing spinor equa-

tions (42) and recover all the Killing spinors. We find

$$\eta_1^+ = \cos(\theta/2) \begin{pmatrix} \ell_1 \\ \ell_2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \eta_1^- = -\sin(\theta/2) \begin{pmatrix} \ell_1 \\ \ell_2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (59)$$

where ℓ_1 and ℓ_2 are complex constants. Accordingly, the components of the ten-dimensional Killing spinor

$$\epsilon = \sum_{i=1}^2 \psi_i \otimes \eta_i \quad (60)$$

(where ψ_i are the Killing spinors on AdS_6 [22]) are reduced by half i.e. ϵ has 16 real independent components, in accordance with the number of supercharges of the $F(4)$ superalgebra. Moreover, since the spinors η_i transform in the $(\mathbf{2}, \mathbf{1})$ representation of the $SO(4) \simeq SU(2)_R \times SU(2)$ isometry subgroup, one can consider orbifolds S^4/Γ where Γ is an ADE subgroup of $SU(2) \subset SO(4)$, without further breaking supersymmetry. An explicit example is a \mathbb{Z}_n quotient acting on the coordinate ψ introduced in (47), which leaves supersymmetry intact since the Killing spinors (59) do not depend on ψ . It is interesting to note that in this case one might consider turning on a RR two-form flux $F = dA$ through the vanishing S^2 proportional to mB , so that $B' = 0$ - see equation (3a). This is a “flat” deformation of the geometry, that does not alter the form of the metric⁸.

6 Conclusions

In this note we have performed a systematic analysis of general supersymmetric AdS_6 backgrounds of massive type IIA supergravity. We have established the uniqueness of the $\text{AdS}_6 \times_w S^4$ solution of [13], and certain orbifolds, and discussed its supersymmetric properties. Although the present work does not exclude the existence of supersymmetric AdS_6 vacua in other supergravity theories, it suggests a scarcity of such backgrounds. In particular, we do not expect that supersymmetric AdS_6 solutions can be found in type IIA or eleven dimensional supergravity.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Dario Martelli for suggesting this research topic and for guidance through all the stages of the present work, and James Sparks and Diego Rodriguez-Gomez for useful comments. My work is supported by an A.G. Leventis Foundation grant, an STFC studentship and via the Act “Scholarship Programme of S.S.F. by the procedure of individual assessment, of 2011-12” by resources of the Operational Programme for Education

⁸I would like to thank Diego Rodriguez-Gomez for pointing this out.

and Lifelong Learning, of the European Social Fund (ESF) and of the NSRF, 2007-2013.

A Spinors and Clifford algebras

Clifford algebra and spinors in 4 dimensions

The (complex) Clifford algebra in four Euclidean dimensions $\text{Cliff}(4, 0)$ is isomorphic to the matrix algebra of 4×4 complex matrices $\text{Mat}_4(\mathbb{C})$. The generators of $\text{Cliff}(4, 0)$ satisfy $\{\gamma_a, \gamma_b\} = 2\delta_{ab}$ and are chosen so that $\gamma_a^\dagger = \gamma_a$. The chirality operator is $\gamma_5 = \gamma_1\gamma_2\gamma_3\gamma_4$ and has the property $\gamma_5^2 = \mathbb{I}$. The intertwiners that relate the representations $\{\gamma_a, \gamma_a^T, \gamma_a^*\}$ of $\text{Cliff}(4, 0)$ are

$$C_4 \gamma_a C_4^{-1} = \gamma_a^T, \quad B_4 \gamma_a B_4^{-1} = \gamma_a^*. \quad (61)$$

They satisfy $C_4 = -C_4^T$, $B_4^* B_4 = -\mathbb{I}$ and are related as $C_4 = B_4^T$.

Under $\text{Spin}(4) \subset \text{Cliff}(4, 0)$ an irreducible representation of $\text{Cliff}(4, 0)$ (Dirac spinor) decomposes into two irreducible $\text{Spin}(4)$ representations of opposite chirality (Weyl spinors). The charge-conjugate η^c of a spinor η is defined as $\eta^c \equiv B_4^{-1} \eta^*$ and obeys the relation $\eta^{cc} = -\eta$. Setting $\eta_1 \equiv \eta$ and $\eta_2 \equiv \eta^c$, the aforementioned relation can be summarised as

$$\eta_i^c = \sum_j \epsilon_{ij} \eta_j \quad (62)$$

where ϵ_{ij} is antisymmetric in i, j and $\epsilon_{12} = 1$. This symplectic-Majorana property is compatible with the chirality condition.

Clifford algebra and spinors in 5+1 dimensions

The (complex) Clifford algebra in $5 + 1$ dimensions $\text{Cliff}(5, 1)$ is isomorphic to the matrix algebra of 8×8 complex matrices $\text{Mat}_8(\mathbb{C})$. The generators of $\text{Cliff}(5, 1)$ satisfy $\{\gamma_\alpha, \gamma_\beta\} = 2\eta_{\alpha\beta}$ and are chosen so that $\gamma_\alpha^\dagger = \gamma_0 \gamma_\alpha \gamma_0$. The chirality operator is $\gamma_7 = \gamma_0 \gamma_1 \gamma_2 \gamma_3 \gamma_4 \gamma_5$ and has the property $\gamma_7^2 = \mathbb{I}$. The intertwiners that relate the representations $\{\gamma_\alpha, -\gamma_\alpha^T, \gamma_\alpha^*\}$ of $\text{Cliff}(5, 1)$ are

$$C_6 \gamma_\alpha C_6^{-1} = -\gamma_\alpha^T, \quad B_6 \gamma_\alpha B_6^{-1} = \gamma_\alpha^*. \quad (63)$$

They have the properties $C_6 = C_6^T$, $B_6^* B_6 = -\mathbb{I}$ and are related as $C_6 = B_6^T \gamma_0$.

Under $\text{Spin}(5, 1) \subset \text{Cliff}(5, 1)$ an irreducible representation of $\text{Cliff}(5, 1)$ (Dirac spinor) decomposes to two irreducible $\text{Spin}(5, 1)$ representations of opposite chirality (Weyl spinors). The charge-conjugate ψ^c of a spinor ψ is defined as $\psi^c \equiv B_6^{-1} \psi^*$ and obeys the relation $\psi^{cc} = -\psi$. Setting $\psi_1 \equiv \psi$ and $\psi_2 \equiv \psi^c$, the aforementioned relation can be summarised as

$$\psi_i^c = \sum_j \epsilon_{ij} \psi_j. \quad (64)$$

This symplectic-Majorana property is compatible with the chirality condition.

Clifford algebra and spinors in 9+1 dimensions

The (complex) Clifford algebra in $9 + 1$ dimensions $\text{Cliff}(9, 1)$ is isomorphic to the matrix algebra of 32×32 complex matrices $\text{Mat}_{32}(\mathbb{C})$. The generators of $\text{Cliff}(9, 1)$ satisfy $\{\Gamma_A, \Gamma_B\} = 2\eta_{AB}$ and are chosen so that $\Gamma_A^\dagger = \Gamma_0 \Gamma_A \Gamma_0$. The chirality operator is $\Gamma_{11} = \Gamma_0 \Gamma_1 \dots \Gamma_9$ and has the property $\Gamma_{11}^2 = \mathbb{I}$. The intertwiners that relate the representations $\{\Gamma_A, -\Gamma_A^T, \Gamma_A^*\}$ of $\text{Cliff}(9, 1)$ are

$$C_{10} \Gamma_A C_{10}^{-1} = -\Gamma_A^T, \quad B_{10} \Gamma_A B_{10}^{-1} = \Gamma_A^* . \quad (65)$$

They have the properties $C_{10} = -C_{10}^T$, $B_{10}^* B_{10} = \mathbb{I}$ and are related as $C_{10} = B_{10}^T \Gamma_0$.

Under $\text{Spin}(9, 1) \subset \text{Cliff}(9, 1)$ an irreducible representation of $\text{Cliff}(9, 1)$ (Dirac spinor) decomposes to two irreducible $\text{Spin}(9, 1)$ representations of opposite chirality (Weyl spinors). Consistent with the chirality condition is the Majorana property $\epsilon^* = B_{10} \epsilon$.

$\text{Cliff}(9, 1) \simeq \text{Cliff}(5, 1) \otimes \text{Cliff}(4, 0)$ decomposition

The generators of $\text{Cliff}(9, 1)$ are decomposed as

$$\Gamma_\alpha = \gamma_\alpha \otimes \gamma_5 \quad \text{and} \quad \Gamma_{a+5} = \mathbb{I} \otimes \gamma_a . \quad (66)$$

where $\alpha \in \{0, \dots, 5\}$ and $a \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ are tangent space indices. Accordingly, the decomposition of the intertwiners is $C_{10} = C_6 \otimes C_4$ and $B_{10} = B_6 \otimes B_4$ and of the chirality operator $\Gamma_{11} = \gamma_7 \otimes \gamma_5$. There is also an alternative decomposition $\Gamma_\alpha = \gamma_\alpha \otimes \mathbb{I}$ and $\Gamma_{a+5} = \gamma_7 \otimes \gamma_a$ which is related to the above via a similarity transformation $U \equiv P_- \otimes \gamma_5 + P_+ \otimes \mathbb{I}$ where $P_\pm = \frac{1}{2}(\mathbb{I} \pm \gamma_7)$.

B Spinor bilinears of $\text{Cliff}(4, 0)$

The algebra $\text{Cliff}(4, 0)$ is spanned by the elements $\{\mathbb{I}, \gamma_a, \gamma_{ab}, \gamma_{abc}, \gamma_{abcd}\}$, which are subject to the relations

$$\gamma_{abc} = -\epsilon_{abcd} \gamma^d \gamma_5, \quad \gamma_a = \frac{1}{3!} \epsilon_{abcd} \gamma^{bcd} \gamma_5, \quad \gamma_{ab} = -\frac{1}{2!} \epsilon_{abcd} \gamma^{cd} \gamma_5 . \quad (67)$$

The relation $C_4 = B_4^T$ leads to

$$\eta_i^\dagger = \sum_{j=1}^2 \epsilon_{ij} \eta_j^T C_4 \quad (68)$$

Bilinears of the form $\psi_i^T C_4 \gamma_{(n)} \chi_k$ obey the reality conditions

$$(\psi_1^T C_4 \gamma_{(n)} \chi_2)^* = -\psi_2^T C_4 \gamma_{(n)} \chi_1, \quad (\psi_1^T C_4 \gamma_{(n)} \chi_1)^* = \psi_2^T C_4 \gamma_{(n)} \chi_2. \quad (69)$$

Furthermore, the transposition identity

$$(C_4 \gamma^{a_1 \dots a_n})^T = -(-1)^{n(n-1)/2} C_4 \gamma^{a_1 \dots a_n}, \quad (70)$$

which follows from the properties of C_4 , yields

$$\psi_i^T C_4 \gamma_{(n)} \chi_k = (\psi_i^T C_4 \gamma_{(n)} \chi_k)^T = -(-1)^{n(n-1)/2} \chi_k^T C_4 \gamma_{(n)} \psi_i. \quad (71)$$

The Fierz identity for $\text{Cliff}(4, 0)$ reads

$$\chi \psi^\dagger = \frac{1}{4} (\psi^\dagger \chi + \gamma_a \psi^\dagger \gamma^a \chi - \frac{1}{2!} \gamma_{ab} \psi^\dagger \gamma^{ab} \chi - \gamma_a \gamma_5 \psi^\dagger \gamma^a \gamma_5 \chi + \gamma_5 \psi^\dagger \gamma_5 \chi). \quad (72)$$

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